PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Divisional Application of	)	
	)	FOR: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISPENSING SOLUTION TO A MULTIWELL CONTAINER
Robert LEVIN et al.	)	
	)	
Serial No.: Unknown	)	
	)	Group
Filed: Herewith	)	Art Unit: 1744
Serial No.: 09/549,283	)	
Filed: April 14, 2000	)	
	)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Examiner Patricia Bex

Dear Madam:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of a Rule 60 Divisional Application relating to U.S. Serial No. 09/549,283 filed on April 14, 2000.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail with Express Mail Label No. EL732984512US addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202 on:

January 28, 2002
(Mailing Date)

Melissa J. Leffler
(Typed Name)

(Signature)

January 28, 2002
(Date of Signature)

Please amend the Divisional application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 5, before "This application is related to..." insert -- This application is a divisional application of application 09/549,283 filed April 14, 2000.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-12 without prejudice.

REMARKS

The Applicants elected claims 1-12 in response to a restriction requirement issued by the Examiner by telephone interview on January 10, 2002. At that time the Applicants reserved the right to file a divisional application with the remaining claims 13-14. The Applicants request that these claims be examined in this divisional application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 28, 2002

By: _____

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Docket No.: 6444-PA07D

VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS INDICATING CHANGES

On page 1, starting on line 5.

This application is a divisional application of application 09/549,283 filed April 14, 2000. This application is related to applications Serial No. 09/____________, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TREATMENT OF SAMPLES ON SOLID SUPPORTS, and Serial No. 09/____________, entitled CONTAINER AND METHOD FOR HIGH VOLUME TREATMENT OF SAMPLES ON SOLID SUPPORTS each having the same filing date as, and assigned to the assignee of, the present application.

Delete claims 1-12.

CONTAINER AND METHOD FOR HIGH VOLUME TREATMENT OF SAMPLES ON SOLID SUPPORTS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of application 09/549,285 filed April 14, 2000. This application is related to applications Serial No. 09/_____, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TREATMENT OF SAMPLES ON SOLID SUPPORTS, and Serial No. 09/_____, CONTAINER AND METHOD FOR HIGH VOLUME TREATMENT OF SAMPLES ON SOLID SUPPORTS, each having the same filing date as, and assigned to the assignee of, the present application.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a system and method for automated treatment of chemical compounds or biological materials on solid supports, and more specifically, a system and method for automated purification, elution, cleavage, transfer, concentration and/or evaporation of biological or chemical samples on solid supports.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In recent years, the pharmaceuticals industry has devoted significant resources to finding ways to cut the time required for identification and validation of lead drug candidates. Disciplines that have arisen to address this need include high-throughput screening and combinatorial chemistry. Using combinatorial methods, libraries made up of large numbers of compounds are randomly or semi-randomly synthesized, then evaluated using high-throughput screening, looking for biological activity or chemical reactions. The availability of solid-phase supports, e.g., resin beads, balls, disks or tubes, for organic synthesis has contributed significantly to the ability to create large combinatorial libraries, making it possible to synthesize

CLAIMS

13. An automated method for dispensing solution to a plurality of sample wells in a multi-well plate, the method comprising:

(a) placing a fill container within a reservoir chamber, the fill container having a plurality of reservoir wells formed therein, each reservoir well having a pre-determined volume corresponding to an amount of solution to be dispensed to each sample well;

(b) disposing a plurality of tubes with each tube having a proximal end adjacent one reservoir well and a distal end connected to a tip above a corresponding sample well;

(c) filling the reservoir chamber with the solution from a solution source to a level above a top of the fill container;

(d) draining excess solution through a plurality of bores formed in the fill container and out of the reservoir chamber; and

(e) introducing a gas into the reservoir chamber to force solution from the reservoir well into the corresponding tube and to the corresponding sample well.

14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising aligning the tips with the sample wells in multi-well plate.